

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 209779

LIVE OAK (CONFIDENTIAL) US EYES ONLY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, EAIR, US, WB, GW

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SUBJECT: WEST GERMAN CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT LANDS AT

TEMPELHOF

REF: (A) USBERLIN 1792, (B) USBERLIN 1793, (C) BONN 14229

1. WHILE SHARING USBER'S DESIRE TO TREAT THIS INCIDENT IN AS LOW KEY FASHION AS POSSIBLE, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE FOR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE HANDED TO GERMAN AUTHORITIES OR FOR APPROACH TO BE MADE TO SOVIETS ON REMOVAL OF AIRCRAFT FROM WEST BERLIN:

(A) LANDING OF WEST GERMAN AIRCRAFT IN WEST BERLIN, HOWEVER INADVERTENT, TOUCHES ON TWO OF MOST BASIC ASPECTS OF THREE POWER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE CITY, I.E. AIR ACCESS AND DEMILITARIZATION. GIVEN THE DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE HAD WITH SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS CONCERNING THESE SUBJECTS IN PAST, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW FOR ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE COMMUNIST SIDE ABOUT OUR INTENTION TO EXERCISE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS CASE. THUS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE LANDING IN WEST BERLIN CAN BE TREATED AS CONSULAR MATTER

IN SAME FASHION AS IN CASE OF FRG AIRCRAFT STRAYING INTO OTHER AREAS OF GDR AIRSPACE.

(B) WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE MATTERS WITH SOVIETS WOULD PRESERVE PRINCIPLE OF ALLIED CONTROL, IT WOULD ALSO LIKELY LEAD TO EXERCISE OF GDR CLAIM TO "APPROVE" OR AT LEAST EXERCISE CONTROL OVER FLIGHT OF WEST GERMAN AIRCRAFT WHILE IN CORRIDOR. EVEN THOUGH WE COULD CANCEL FLIGHT IF SUCH DIFFICULTIES AROSE, RAISING MATTER AT ALL WITH SOVIETS WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY POSSIBILITY OF CONTROVERSY WHICH WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BECOME PUBLIC.

2. ALTHOUGH WE REGRET EXPENSE TO OWNER TO CRATE AND SHIP AIRCRAFT, UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE FIND IT THE PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVE. EMBASSY BONN AND USBERLIN SHOULD SO INFORM UK AND FRENCH REPS. IF ALLIES ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT OF LEAVING OWNER TO BEAR EXPENSE, PERHAPS CONSIDERATION COULD

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BE GIVEN TO PUTTING DISMANTLED AIRCRAFT ON ALLIED TRANSPORTATION TO FRG. ROBINSON

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